

Om Jananim sarada devim Raamkrishnan jagad gurum paada
padme tayoh shrittwaa pranamaami muhurmuhu

When we look at the lives of Sri Ramakrishna , Sw Vivekananda and Holy mother maa saarada, the first thing that strikes us about the holy mother's life is how ordinary it was,,,,,,,,, extraordinarily ordinary.,,,,,, just like our life, life of rest of us, sometimes I think what would Raamkrishna have done, if he were asked to do what Holy mother did. ,,,,,, look after a mad aunt,,, feed women in the house ,,, and devotees are coming, look after the monks, and a bunch of greedy brothers and relatives, ,,,aaaaand affairs of her own family, affairs of the growing Ramakrishna order of monks, devotees,,, sooooo and so forth, I think he would have flown in samaadhi immediately,, he would not have done any of it, he would have gone into samaadhi, and if Vivekananda would have been asked to do that, instead of going all over the world and preaching Vedanta, go and stay in a remote village in Bengal and look after a bunch of extremely troublesome relatives, and cut vegetables and look after the cows in the cowshed, all of that. I think he would have made good of his promise, he always said "I want to go and meditate in the Himalayan cave", he would have run away to Himalayan cave. But holy mother did all that. And I think one reason is that among all of them, she was the one who has played a role which is exactly like our lives, see how many characters we know like Ramakrishna, who goes into ecstasy, who lives in this constant communion with god, and preaches god through examples, and his own teachings, how many do we know like Vivekananda, how many can like Vivekananda, or like Ramakrishna.

Their circumstances are extraordinary, and they are not replicated, and what is replicated is our ordinary life, and that's what holy mother did.

She demonstrated all those teachings, how can we apply to our own lives, our common working lives, how do we apply to that, how do we make our own lives blessed, but because of that she is difficult to catch, I have seen spiritual lives of monks and among devotees, it is usually people are attracted by Swami Vivekananda, aaaand then after sometime they come to understand Sri Ramakrishna, and I have seen only after a lot of maturity and spiritual life, that they go from Ramakrishna to Holy Mother. In final stages of spiritual life they take refuge in holy mother.

Sw Turiyananda in last several years of his life mother mother, I just heard from sw mahayogananda today how Sw Atulanandaji, gurudas mj who was regarded as a brahma jnaani who always says hari om, towards the end of his life he would say maa, so as we become mature in spiritual life, we go swamiji to sri Ramakrishna , I have seen that practically, in the lives of many people, to the holy mother finally. In belur math I have seen sri ramakrishna's temple is very big, it is the centre of everything is

arranged, but holy mother's temple is more popular, small temple, you will always find people there, praying, meditating, sitting there, crying, or gossiping, but sitting there all around, always holy mother's temple people are always there,

One day I was walking towards holy mother's temple, and by the way I was thinking from god's point of view, how does god look upon us, what would be the god's point of view towards us, in front of me holy mother's temple was there, immediately the answer came, of course god will look upon all of us as children, we are all children of god, his children, her children, so motherhood of god is primary, in fact from god's point of view of all of us are her children, in all religions, god is defined as the creator of the universe, that from the universe is born, that in which universe exists, and that unto universe finally returns, so god is the mother, and holy mother is first and foremost is mother, that's the thing comes to us, all the stories we are listening to, swami Arupananda, who was her long time attendant, who stayed for a very long time, her disciple, he says he has very beautiful reminiscence, in which he says when he first came to meet holy mother to take initiation from her, first thing he saw, for first time he saw holy mother standing in her house in Joyrambati village, and the tender look she had in her face, when she looked at him, now Arupananda has lost his mother in a young age, he saw the mother and somehow felt, this is my mother, that something, he said that, that lasted all his life, the first day he saw her and the first look she gave him, while she looked at him, and he had a very interesting conversation with her, he asked her, are you really the mother of all, she said yes, you are really the mother of all she said yes, even these, these birds, beasts, insects, she said yes, even these, then he asked that if they are your children then why do they suffer so much, and she said this birth is like that, the animal birth is like that, they have to go through these experiences, they are my children, and practically so, there in the household whether it is cows, or the cat, or the parrot, they all felt that, holy mother loved them, they responded to her in a special way, there was a cat, and the cat was mischievous, go around and stealing food here and there, and created a lot of mischief in the household, but it found protection at the feet of holy mother, anybody would be angry at the cat, somebody coming to beat the cat, she would protect the cat, she said that it is the nature of the cat, where will it get the food, therefore it steals food, so you should feed the cat so that it won't steal food, now once one monk was tired of the cat's mischief, actually hit the cat, beat up the cat and holy mother was so hurt, she said don't beat it, feed it so that it would not steal food, and make sure the monk would not beat the cat in her absence, she said I live in that cat, I am there, she made sure for forever that nobody beat the cat again, but what is interesting is that, this is the story which is repeated so many times, but there is a side to this story which is really touching, she

would herself be strict with the cat sometimes, when the cat is particularly mischievous, she would threaten to beat it, like that I will beat you, the cat's reaction is very interesting, cat would be sitting at her feet and looking at her, when she would be threatening to beat the cat, the cat would with big eyes staring at her, even crawl even closer to her feet, some how I think the cat represents all of us, yes she was mother for everybody, she would not refuse anybody, and she protected everybody,

In belur math once happened was that, sw Vivekananda was there in belur math, one of the workers caught stealing, and sw Vivekananda turned him out, dismissed from service, he is a very poor man, what could he do, he went across the river to Calcutta, and went straight to mother's house, and told her everything, that day baburam mj sw premananda was visiting holy mother's house, and holy mother told baburam mj this man is very poor, what will he do, naren Vivekananda naren has thrown him out of the job, tell him to take him back, say that I have said so, baburam mj said that but narendra will be furious, if I return with person who has been thrown out, holy mother said tell him I have said so, that's all, baburam mj was anxious; he came to the math with that worker, as he was entering the gate, who he would see, sw Vivekananda, Vivekananda saw baburam mj and said look look what baburam has done, he has got that fellow back again, baburam mj said, but holy mother said, he went to the holy mother and holy mother said, we should take him back, man was scared of Vivekananda, of course, Vivekananda burst out laughing and said O you went straight to the high court, now I can't do anything, so he was taken back, she did not refuse anybody, one day somebody, one of her close woman devotee said, you know we have seen sri Ramakrishna, and we are seeing you, but I think sri Ramakrishna loved us more, holy mother said what is there to wonder at, sri Ramakrishna has selected his disciples, so carefully, he accepted only a few and that too after so many tests, and for me she said he has sent a queue of ants, all the giants he took, and for me there is these ants, truly she has not refused anybody, the main form of showing her grace was initiating, giving mantra diksha, transmitting spiritual power to, she was jnana daayini, giver of spiritual knowledge and liberation, now there is these three devotees, who sw brahmananda in belur math refused to initiate, he said you can go to holy mother at jayrambati, if she wants, she initiates you, but I can't initiate you, may be there karma was so bad, see the enlightened masters take upon themselves the karma of the devotees, and it depletes their spiritual power, and it hurts them also, they get various kinds of diseases of the body, holy mother said sri Ramakrishna never committed any sin in his life, yet he suffered from cancer and terrible things, because it is a kind of vicarious atonement where he took upon himself the sins of devotees, and spare them the sufferings, that was due, and gave them a boost in spiritual life, it is not just to sparing us from the suffering, frees us for spiritual life,

one effect of bad karma is we do not make progress in spiritual life, one of the signs of bad karma, so enlightened master, of course somebody like holy mother or sri Ramakrishna could do that, that's why sw brahmananda refused, he could see what was in store, for those three devotees, when those three devotees came, somebody told holy mother three persons have come, they are being sent by sw brahmananda for initiation, and holy mother saw them, and she said, she refused, they were shocked, and holy mother said to others, children sons send good things to mother, from abroad or from distant places, and look what rakhal has sent me, this is what he sends me, when the devotees heard of this, they were sitting outside, they were sitting there and weeping, they asked again, she turned them down, third time she agreed, and she initiated them, when they went back, and reported this to belur math, this was reported to sw brahmananda, at that time sw brahmananda was sitting facing the ganges, on a bench, sw brahmananda was there, sw saradananda, sw premananda, I think sw turiyanandaji was there, sw shivanandaji was there probably, when they heard this, that those three devotees were initiated, they all kept quiet, silence descended upon them, sw brahmananda was very grave, and sw premananda said grace grace what poison would have reduced us to ashes, the holy mother takes it and assimilates it without a murmur, of course for us we do not have that sight, so it does not seem to make much difference, just one more person, three more persons, but what is then their past,